

SISTER FRANCES CABRINI (VIRGINIA BILBAO)

JUNE 30, 1960.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. EASTLAND, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 9610]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 9610) for the relief of Sister Frances Cabrini (Virginia Bilbao), having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to cancel the outstanding deportation proceedings in the case of Sister Frances Cabrini (Virginia Bilbao) and to provide that she shall not again be subject to deportation by reason of the same facts on which the present proceedings are based.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The following information was contained in House Report No. 1817 concerning the case:

The beneficiary is a 27-year-old native and citizen of the Philippine Islands, residing in a convent in Ohio. She is in training as a novice, and is supported by the Order of the Sisters of Charity. The order is devoted to teaching and social work and to the training of nuns for that purpose. The beneficiary was admitted to the United States as a student but proceeded directly to the convent. After 2½ years of satisfactory progress she will take her vows as a nun and will attend the College of Steubenville.

A report from the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, dated March 7, 1960, to the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, reads as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE,
Washington, D.C., March 7, 1960.

Hon. EMANUEL CELLER,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In response to your request for a report relative to the bill (H.R. 9610) for the relief of Sister Frances Cabrini (Virginia Bilbao), there is attached a memorandum of information concerning the beneficiary. This memorandum has been prepared from the Immigration and Naturalization Service files relating to the beneficiary by the Cleveland office of this Service, which has custody of those files. According to the records of this Service, the complete name of the beneficiary is Maria Virginia Tandiong Bilbao and her religious name is Sister Mary Frances Cabrini.

The bill would grant the beneficiary permanent residence in the United States as of the date of its enactment upon payment of the required visa fee. It would also direct that one number be deducted from the appropriate immigration quota.

The beneficiary is chargeable to the quota for the Philippines.

Sincerely,

J. M. SWING, *Commissioner.*

"MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FROM IMMIGRATION AND
NATURALIZATION SERVICE FILES RE SISTER FRANCES CABRINI
(VIRGINIA BILBAO), BENEFICIARY OF H.R. 9610

"The beneficiary, a native and citizen of the Philippines, was born on May 18, 1933. She resides in the convent of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity, Carrollton, Ohio, where she is receiving instruction and training as a novice. She has no income or assets and is supported by her religious order. The beneficiary completed high school in the Philippines. Her parents are deceased. Her only close relative is a married sister residing in the Philippines.

"The beneficiary came to the United States for the purpose of joining the Order of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity and to receive training in social service work and education. She joined the order upon her arrival. The order has branches in all States and several foreign countries. It is devoted to teaching and social service work and to the training of nuns for that purpose. In Carrollton the order operates a home and school for children in conjunction with the training program. The beneficiary participates in the training program which includes academic study of canon law, social services, and religion, such classes requiring about 3 hours a day. In addition, the beneficiary assists a senior sister in supervising the children in the home and school. If the beneficiary shows satisfactory progress after 2½ years of training, she will take her preliminary vows as a nun and will be sent to the College of Steubenville, Steubenville, Ohio, for a 4-year course in education or social services. Thus far her progress

has been satisfactory. Upon successful completion of the college course, the beneficiary would be permitted to take her final vows as a nun and would thereafter be assigned to one of the communities of the order.

"The beneficiary was admitted to the United States at Seattle, Wash., on July 10, 1958, as a student for a period of 1 year for the purpose of attending the College of Steubenville. She never attended that college, but proceeded directly to the convent of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity at Carrollton, where she has since remained. The Sisters of Our Lady of Charity petitioned for approval of their school for nonimmigrant students in connection with the beneficiary's application for an extension of her student status. The order's petition was denied on the grounds that the school was not proven to be licensed, certified, accredited or approved by an appropriate educational authority of the State of Ohio and that the program of study could not be considered a bona fide student program. The beneficiary's application for extension of stay was denied on September 23, 1959, on the ground that she was not attending an approved school. She was granted 30 days in which to depart voluntarily from the United States and that period was subsequently extended to January 15, 1960. She failed to depart and deportation proceedings have been instituted on the ground that she has remained in the United States for a longer period than authorized."

Mr. Mays, the author of H.R. 9610, appeared before a subcommittee of the committee and testified in support of his bill, as follows:

"Mr. Chairman, the beneficiary of this bill is a citizen of the Philippines, who entered the United States at Seattle, Wash., as a nonimmigrant student to attend the College of Steubenville.

"She proceeded directly to the convent of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity at Carrollton, Ohio, who were her sponsors, where she has since remained. The beneficiary came to the United States for the purpose of joining the Order of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity and to receive training in social service work and education. She joined the order upon her arrival. The beneficiary participates in the training program which includes academic study of canon law, social services, and religion. Her religious training will be completed this year at which time she will take her preliminary vows as a nun and mother superior plans to have her continue her education at the College of Steubenville.

"The beneficiary's family is deceased, she has no ties in the Philippines, and she is most anxious to continue the dedication of her life to the needs of the children at the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity.

"The Immigration Service has stated that there is no record to establish that she has been other than a person of good moral character. Mother superior of the convent assures me Sister Frances Cabrini is a highly intelligent individual and is making excellent progress in her studies.

"In view of the progress she has made, and in light of the high recommendation of the mother superior, I strongly feel that she should be given the relief accorded by this bill so that she may complete her education in this most worthy field."

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (H.R. 9610) should be enacted.

